concerned State Governments. It is for the State Governments to devise methods and take concrete steps to improve the law and order situation in the States. Accordingly, crime records/statistics etc. in this regard are maintained by the State Governments.

Lifting ban on joining RSS by Gujarat

*190. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision of the State Government of Gujarat to lift the ban on the Government servants joining RSS;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister justified the decision of the Gujarat Government recently while talking to press;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for justifying the decision of Gujarat Government to allow the Government servants joining RSS; and

(d) whether Government have decided to allow the Central Government servants to join the RSS?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat *vide* their Order dated 3.1.2000 have lifted the ban on the State Government employees participating in the activities of RSS.

(b) and (c) In terms of entry No. 41 under 'List II-State List' of the VII Schedule to the Constitution of India, State Publilc Services are within the exclusive purview of the respective State Governments. Further Article 309 of the Constitution lays down that the Governor of a State shall be the competent authority to make rules regulating the conditions of service of persons' appointed to posts/services in connection with the affairs of the respective State. Accordingly, it is for the State Governments to formulate their own policies in regard to service matters under their control.

(d) No, Sir.